

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) A process for the preparation of sheets in the following sequence of steps, comprising:

extruding a film tube;

laying the extruded film tube flat;

cutting the flattened film tube in a conveying direction (z) of the flattened film tube to provide a first and a second sheet;

squeezing the first and second sheets; and

performing a reversing operation such that parts of surfaces of at least one of the sheets come into direct contact, the surfaces that come into direct contact with each other being those that formed an interior surface of the film tube.

2-3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously presented) The process in accordance with claim 1, wherein the sheets are prepared with at least one sticky surface by extruding the film tube with at least one sticky peripheral surface.

5. (Previously presented) The process in accordance with claim 1, wherein the film tube has a sticky external surface and wherein during the reversing operation only surfaces of the sheets that had formed the internal surface of the film tube contact each other.

6. (Withdrawn - Previously presented) A machine for the preparation of sheets, comprising:

a device that extrudes a film tube;

a device that flattens the extruded film tube;

a cut-off device that slits the flattened film tube lengthwise in a conveying direction (z) of the flattened film tube to provide a first and a second sheet;

a device that squeezes the first and second sheets; and

a reversing device through which at least one of the first and second sheets runs before the reversed sheet is fed to a stationary processing device or storage device, such that parts of surfaces of at least one of the sheets that had formed an interior surface of the film tube come into contact with each other.

7. (Withdrawn) The machine in accordance with claim 6, wherein the reversing device is configured to lead the sheets past at least one reversing air turning bar and at least one reversing deflecting roller.

8. (Withdrawn) The machine in accordance with claim 6, wherein the reversing device includes at least one functional pair formed of an air turning bar and a deflecting roller that carry out a reversing movement around an axis that runs orthogonal to a rotational position of the deflecting roller.

9. (Withdrawn) The machine in accordance with claim 6, wherein the extrusion device is configured to extrude the film tube with at least one sticky peripheral surface such that the first and second sheets each have at least one sticky surface.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Withdrawn) The machine in accordance with claim 6, wherein the machine is configured to process the film tube having a sticky external surface and wherein the reversing device is configured to reverse the sheets such that only those surfaces of the sheets that had formed the internal surface of the film tube contact each other.

12. (New) The process according to claim 1, wherein the step of laying the extruded film tube flat includes compressing the extruded film tube from opposite sides thereof so as to provide

flattened film tube sides that are not in contact with each other.

13. (New) The process according to claim 12, wherein a cushion of air remains between the flattened film tube sides.

14. (New) The process according to claim 13, wherein the step of cutting the flattened film tube is effected with the cushion of air being present between the flattened film tube sides.

15. (New) A process for the preparation of sheets in the following sequence of steps, comprising:

extruding a film tube;

laying the extruded film tube flat, including compressing the extruded film tube from opposite sides thereof so as to provide flattened film tube sides that are separated from each other;

cutting the flattened film tube in a conveying direction (z) of the flattened film tube to provide a first and a second sheet that are separated from each other;

squeezing the first and second sheets so as to bring the first and second sheets into contact with each other; and

performing a reversing operation such that parts of surfaces of at least one of the sheets come into direct contact, the

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surfaces that come into direct contact with each other being those that formed an interior surface of the film tube.

16. (New) The process according to claim 15, wherein the step of laying the extruded film tube flat and the step of cutting the flattened film tube are effected with a cushion of air being present between the film tube sides.